

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18, and 21-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, and 24-26 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0054]. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims, at least in light of the following remarks.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit an Information Disclosure Statement in conjunction with this Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the enclosed form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned to Applicants showing consideration of the references cited therein by the Examiner.

II. The Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,390,331 to Yui in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188934 to Griffioen et al. (Griffioen); and rejects claims 2-4, 6-9 and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yui, Griffioen, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0100374 to Nakajima. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Yui and Griffioen, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the subject matter recited in claim 1. For example, claim 1 recites "storage information controlling means which replaces the predetermined information stored in the second internal memory with predetermined information stored in the storage medium if identification information read from the storage medium corresponds to the identification information that is stored in the first internal memory..."

The Office Action agrees that Yui fails to disclose the storage information controlling means recited in claim 1. However, the Office Action asserts that Griffioen remedies this deficiency. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. For example, the controller

26 of Griffioen updates firmware data from a master processor 22 and transmits the upgraded firmware data to a hardware device 24 having a flash drive and a ROM memory (see Griffioen, paragraphs [0002], [0023], and [0024]). If the upgrade firmware version stored in the master processor 22 is different from firmware version stored in the flash memory of hardware device 24, controller 26 replaces the existing firmware data on hardware device 24 with the upgraded firmware data (see Griffioen, paragraphs [0025] and [0026]). However, master processor 22 is not a detachably installed storage medium as recited in claim 1. As a result, the firmware data in the flash drive does not replace firmware from a detachably installed storage medium. Therefore, Griffioen fails to disclose or render obvious a storage information controlling means as recited in claim 1. Thus, the combination of Yui and Griffioen would not have rendered obvious the storage information controlling means recited in claim 1.

In addition, in the interest of expediting prosecution, claim 1 is amended to recite that "the predetermined information of the latest version is supplied from a predetermined terminal and stored on the storage medium if a request to purchase the predetermined information of the latest version is confirmed." Yui and Griffioen, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose this feature, thereby further rendering claim 1 patentable over Yui and Griffioen.

Independent claims 10, and 24-26 recite features similar to the features recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claims 10, and 24-26 are also patentable at least for the reasons stated above for independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features these claims recite.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-18, and 21-23 depend from independent claims 1 and 10, respectfully. Therefore, these dependent claims are also patentable at least for their

dependency on independent claims 1 and 10, as well as for the additional features these claims recite.

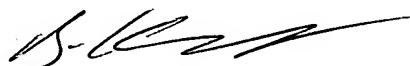
Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BKK/tqs

Enclosure:

Information Disclosure Statement

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